

Subject: Air force statement

Statement from Lieutenant-General Yvan Blondin,
Commander, Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF)

I was recently informed of troubling allegations relating to the production and content of a video that was shown at a mess dinner at 14 Wing Greenwood, Nova Scotia, in 2010. There are serious allegations that its content was inappropriate and culturally insensitive. Although I have not seen the video, the information I received so far warranted my concern and immediate action.

As the Commander of the Royal Canadian Air Force, I requested last week an investigation into the circumstances surrounding that video. The Canadian Forces National Investigation Service (CFNIS) is now investigating this incident.

Although I can't comment on the details of this incident while the CFNIS is conducting its independent investigation, I can reassure all members of the RCAF, members of the Canadian Forces and Canadians as well that we have zero tolerance for acts that do not reflect our Canadian values, especially the respect we owe to other cultures and religions. I express my apologies to those who may feel offended, and reaffirm my commitment to take any possible administrative, disciplinary or corrective actions that may be warranted.

Roland Lavoie

Lieutenant-Colonel

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